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Huzzah!

AH Mayor Liz Danielsen cut the ribbon to open the Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival on Feb. 17. See more on page 4. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Places for People looks to possibility in short-term rentals

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Amidst all the recent talk about short-term rentals in Haliburton County, the group Places for People has a suggestion that may put a new spin on the issue.

Fay Martin and Roland Lange apprised Algonquin Highlands council during its Feb. 15 meeting of housing successes achieved by Places for People (PFP).

PFP works to provide rental housing to low- to moderate-income households in Haliburton County. They've had a presence since 2007 and acquired four properties in the early years.

"We did it by buying and renovating them, renting them, and then fund-raising in order to get the mortgage down to the point where the house was self-sustaining," Martin said. "And then we would go on to get the next acquisition."

see SINGLE page 2

MINDEN SUBARU
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Minden, ON
705-286-6126

Minden Hills seeks new Fire Chief

by THOMAS SMITH
Editor

The Township of Minden Hills website has posted an advertisement for hiring a new Fire Chief.

The advertisement states:

"We are currently seeking a Fire Chief who is a highly motivated and energetic individual to join our senior leadership team.

As the ideal candidate and our new Fire Chief, you are an inspiring, well respected, community focused leader who is known for your exceptional communications skills, your collaborative nature and commitment to building highly effective staff teams. You have a proven track record of achieving results, while ensuring service excellence and fiscal accountability.

Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Fire Chief is responsible for the proactive leadership and overall operation of the fire services including administration, financial management, policy development, operations procedures, fire suppression, fire investigation, fire prevention, inspired leadership to voluntary resources and public education, public relations, emergency medical responses, training, community emergency planning and ensuring compliance with the Ontario Fire Code, Municipal by-laws and Provincial and Federal Legislation."

The Township of Minden Hills has declined to comment regarding the departure of the former Fire Chief.

Many students comply with immunization record request

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The public health campaign toward updated student vaccination records garnered much compliance.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit reminded parents and guardians of students that health records needed proof of current vaccinations to ensure uninterrupted class attendance.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and the unit's CEO, told the board of health when it met Feb. 15 that a comparative handful of students remain without updated records after the first round of notices.

In January, there was indication that 1,357 Grade 3 and high school students in the region who were not up to date with their immunization records. Students that aren't sufficiently vaccinated are suspended from attending classes.

The first day of suspensions was Feb. 5 when there were just 442 students who didn't have updated immunization records.

That number shrunk further so that there are only 36 students without current vaccination records as of Feb. 15.

"This has been a tremendous amount of work among HKPR employees, among school boards, principals, and parents," Bocking said.

The next round of enforcement will include elementary school students, except Grade 3, in March with a suspension date in May.

"In these grades there tends to be fewer that are not up to date," Bocking said.

There is a booster vaccine required in Grade 3 before the student is seven years old.

Bocking said about 3,400 notices will be sent out in March. It's anticipated that numbers of non-compliance will be lower than the first round.

Single, couples underserved by housing options

from page 1

Mayor Liz Danielsen said she was particularly interested in what part the township could have in managing short-term rentals.

"I think that's an interesting direction to take," she said. "And I certainly hope that there's some success there.

"A lot of the short-term rental owners are suggesting that they have no interest whatsoever in becoming long-term rentals because of the Landlord Tenant Act and the challenges associated with that."

Martin said the local tenant population is relatively hard to serve, but PFP has made very good progress.

"I think we do know something about selecting and supporting tenants so that it works well for them," Martin said. "And if it works well for them, it works well for us."

She said it seems a lot of the push-back about the proposed short-term rental bylaw that's being considered by the county and its municipalities is centred on people's income.

"They do need income," she said. "And there's lots of space here in this community that is underutilized and there's lots of people who need housing. So could we put the two of them together in some way?"

In 2018, the group saw that housing needs were increasing significantly quickly, faster than they could keep up.

"So we decided we would go for new builds that were multi-unit," Martin said. "That we would change our focus from family housing, which is what it had been, because of the nature of the housing stock to small households.

"One- or two-person households because the evidence, as you probably know, is that's the most dire need in the community."

It's something like 68 per cent of households in Haliburton County are two-person households. But so much of the housing stock is geared toward families and have three bedrooms, Martin said.

"We decided we would do something, what we could, to address the small units which, of course, are more affordable," Martin said.

Part of the change in focus was with the group's funding formula. Previously, the only government assistance PFP availed of was in the form of rent subsidies. The properties were held to private mortgages or promissory notes.

"Which really attests to how the community cares about how it takes control over what it can to make the world the place they want it to be," she said.

But mortgages wouldn't have been conducive to handling millions of dollars in properties. That's when PFP began looking into community bonds.

Roland Lange, who is also with PFP, said the current housing situation has become a crisis.

"Everybody knows that's a problem," he said.

That showed a need for PFP to aim for bigger projects but, since the COVID-19 pandemic, real estate prices have risen incredibly.

"That's really put us at a disadvantage," Lange said. "Being a not-for-profit, we don't have any money. That's a problem."

One of the ways to raise money was the sale of community bonds. Lange said they allowed four months to reach their fundraising goal.

It took only three months, he said. That's a testament to how well the community got behind the effort.

"Now we regret that we didn't ask for more money because it was very successful and the community really got on board with this," he said.

The effort managed a $2.5-million market value on a property portfolio book-valued at $1.5 million. Debt from three properties has been cleared, he said. And that puts PFP in a better position to borrow.

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County taps the brakes on thoroughfare

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County will reduce the speed limit on a section of County Road 3 to improve motorist safety.

The speed limit along part of County Road 3 starting at 370-metres south of Minnicock Lake Road to about 2,385-metres north will be lowered to 60 kilometres per hour.

Council heard during its regular meeting Feb. 14 that there have been an increasing number of collisions and a history of road safety concerns along that piece of road involving vehicles turning in and out of private entrances and the public intersection.

Sylvin Cloutier, the county's deputy director of public works, said the collisions were often caused by excessive speeds, site line visibility, and low reaction time to maneuver safely at the entrances and intersection.

"At these speeds, drivers are unable to react to vehicles entering or exiting the roadway," he wrote in a report to council.

The change will cost about $1,000 to basically change speed limit signage along that section of road.

In addition to the number of mishaps, county staff used a scoring system by the Transportation Association of Canada to determine the necessity of the speed limit change.

Roads are considered using such criteria as horizontal of vertical geometry of the thoroughfare, average lane width, the presence of roadside hazards, pedestrian exposure to traffic, the road surface, and the number of public road intersections and private driveways.

"The total score for the survey recommended the 60-kilometre speed for that section of road," Cloutier said. "The results were tabulated and that was the outcome of the study."

Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, said motorists approach driving on that section of road very much like how they drive on a section of Highway 507 from Gooderham along The Buckhorn.

"And that is who can go down there the fastest and set records," he said of motorists' mentality on that highway.

Ryall suggested drivers approach the section of County Road 3 in much the same way, regardless of what the posted speed limit is.

"Is there anything else we can do?" he said. "I'm not comfortable that alone is going to reduce the opportunities for accidents as they're currently occurring."

"Other options are basically enforcement," Cloutier said. "As well, more presence in the area for enforcement of speed limits. For other options, it's very limited for what we can do for that specific type of road."

Ryall suggested the county reach out to the OPP and request beefed up enforcement.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said the mayors of the four lower tier municipalities meet regularly with the OPP and can make such a request.

"But we do have to keep in mind that there are a lot of other areas within the county that they get the same request, can you do additional patrols?" she said. "And they've only got so many hours when they can do that. But they're pretty responsive when we've asked them to look at a specific area."

OCNA finalists announced

The OCNA award finalists have been announced for 2023, and we're pleased to share our exitement in the *Haliburton Echo* and *Minden Times* staff nominations for several awards.

The *Haliburton Echo* is nominated for a General Excellence award this year in its circulation category. The General Excellence category reflects all parts of the paper with points awarded for ad design, classifieds, editorial content, columnists, sports section, front page design, photography, and community news

In the Premier Awards category, Emily Stonehouse from the *Times* is nominated for Best Editorial in the paper's circulation category. Steve Galea was nominated for Columnist of the Year for the *Haliburton Echo* with an honourable mention to Jim Polling from the *Minden Times*. Adam Frisk was nominated for best feature photo in the *Minden Times*.

Staff

MH free outdoor skate correction

Information on page five of the Feb. 14, edition of the *Minden Times* is incorrect.

The Dawson Hamilton Outdoor Rink will not be operational this year. The free skating on Feb. 19 and dates in March (Mar. 11 and 15) are at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Due to the unpredictable weather and the outdoor rink not being viable, free public skating will honour the memory of Dawson Hamilton. The Dawson Hamilton display will be placed in SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena on the ice rink on Monday, Mar. 11 (March break), 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and Friday, Mar. 15 (March break), noon – 1 p.m., both sponsored by the Community Service Department.

A winter's welcome

An icy morning's walk along the Minden Boardwalk. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE
Archie Stouffer Elementary School presents their 1st annual student exhibit with the theme of what Minden means to the artist. The exhibit will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden) until March 30, centre is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

SNOW REMOVAL
Section 181 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING
Leave extra space when driving in icy conditions. Approach intersections slowly when they are covered with ice or snow. Watch out for black ice, a thin, nearly invisible coat of ice that can make the road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement will look grey or white in the winter.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS – 2024 BUDGET
The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will continue 2024 Budget and Business Plan Deliberations and will review follow-up items from the previous budget meeting discussions during its Special Meeting of Council scheduled for March 5, 2024. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

• Note a tentative date has been scheduled for an additional Special Meeting of Council to Adopt and Finalize the 2024 Budget on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining the live-stream link, available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

LET'S SORT! - ASK THE WASTE WIZARD
Are you unsure where an item goes or if it is recyclable? Use the Waste Wizard on our website or download the Waste Wizard on your phone. The Waste Wizard will help you learn how to dispose of a specific item or help you sort your materials. You can also receive updates for upcoming events.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

• Fire Chief

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/careers/ for a complete list of available positions and how to apply.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON
Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

* February 29 – Regular Council Meeting
* March 5 – Special Council Meeting
* March 14 – Regular Council Meeting
* March 28 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

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A sizeable crowd gathered to watch the hilarious Lumber Jack show at the Dorset Snowball. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Representatives of the Dorset Lions Club donned their finest furs in the parade.

‘If you’re not in Dorset, you’re not anywhere’

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

“If you’re not in Dorset, you’re not anywhere!” shouts the Town Crier, opening this year’s Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival. The crowd erupted in uproarious applause after Liz Danielsen cut the ribbon to kick this year’s Snowball off.

Crowds of family and carnival goers lined the road to watch the parade. Sirens blared, lights flashed, and kids roared in excitement over the parade of vehicles. Floats with performing musicians and local businesses handing out sweets were especially big hits with the young crowd.

“This is a nice day for February,” says Steve Morrin, outdoors expert. Morrin has been attending the Dorset Snowball for 16 years. He was eager to tell everyone about the skulls, feathers, and bones that adorned his table. Morrin has collected a sizeable collection over the years and desires to spread the love of nature to future generations.

Although the crowd last year was unbelievable, the crowd this year was quite impressive, says Morrin.

The smell of golden delicious fries and sizzling bacon drew a sizeable crowd towards the vendors. The Dorset Lions Club, Into the Blue Bakery, and Johnny’s Frozen Treats were all serving a mouth-watering assortment of food. The Emes Family was offering samples of maple taffy to the public, made onsite.

“It’s been a great turnout this year,” says Sandra Rogers. “The crowd is great, the weather’s been a blessing and we’ve got our hills and our snow so we’re happy.”

The Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival had a variety of events for the day including the hilarious Great Canadian Lumber Jack Show, Junkyard Symphony performers, face painting, winter games for children, skating, and cardboard toboggan races. Prizes for the fastest and best decorated toboggans were given out, as well as best costume of a rider.

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Cassidy and Brianna Emes made maple toffee for festival goers.

Pizza on Earth created a pizza making snowman that had to be carried by tractor in the parade.

Pension Plans have fiduciary duty to combat climate crisis

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

"While not all of us have workplace pension plans, all of us have an interest in the Canada Pension Plan," opened Terry Moore, VP of Environment Haliburton.

Shift: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health gave a virtual presentation over Zoom on Tuesday this week, hosted by Environment Haliburton (EH!).

Their non-profit organization aims to protect pensions and the climate together by helping Canadians understand where their wealth is invested.

Every working or retired Canadian is part of Canada's Pension Plan. It is one of the largest investment owners in the world.

Adam Scott, director of Shift, took the lead of the presentation, showing a graph of the amount of fossil fuels burned and emitted into the atmosphere

"We are still growing the amount of emissions we are putting into the atmosphere," Scott said.

An increase in floods, droughts, and other extreme weather brought on by climate change post extreme dangers to pensions across Canada, said Scott.

"We have to meet zero emissions really quickly," Scott said."Every year, we delay makes it more challenging. We need to think systemically about what a path to zero emissions looks like. There is a serious cost to inaction, it gets harder and more expensive."

Inability to meet zero emissions poses an existential threat to the financial health of pension funds.

"This can't be a generational theft about the future," said Scott. "If we do what we can now, you are not only thinking about your pension plan today, but the pension plan of others in the future. It's become clear that because the strong financial risk of the climate crisis, it has become part of their fiduciary duty to act."

The Canada Pension Plan has investments in utilities, roads, bridges, airports, agriculture, and real estate. Real estate is one of the most important aspects of pension plan investments

Clean energy solutions such as wind and solar are now the cheapest forms of energy. There are transition risks, like that of the change from horse and buggy to cars, said Scott.

Oil and gas companies have been actively fighting climate action. Scott said they have been untruthful about potential solutions.

"Climate change itself has a cascading impact. Damage to the food system, can't get insurance, we are trapped inside our homes because of smoke," he said.

Scott says that all pension plans across Canada are legally required to be a part of the solution and actively invest in solutions for this crisis.

"Its not all risk, and its not all a negative story," said Scott. "If we invest in the economy and invest with us, it is hugely profitable."

If you want to invest in something today that has exponential growth, invest in climate solutions. Solar and wind power generation is currently taking off in popularity with lower costs of entry and consistently advancing technology.

A climate aligned pension fund has several targets including a plan to try to limit global heating under 1.5 degrees. These include near term targets and appropriate decisions that align with their targets, recognizing the urgency of the climate crisis, mainstreaming climate thinking, climate engagement and the power the pension has on their companies and if they are winding down their fossil fuel use.

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) is one of the largest investors in the world. Laura McGrath, Shift's pension Engagement Manager says that the Canada Pension Plan is greenwashing, making them appear to be less environmentally damaging than they really are.

The Canada Pension Plan has growing investments in renewable energy, even owning their own renewable energy companies. In many ways, the Canada Pension Plan is seeing the importance in reducing carbon emissions, said McGrath.

While there have been commitments to have net zero greenhouse gas commissions by 2050, there are no checkpoints over the years for Canadians to measure if they are on track.

The Canada Pension Plan has large stakes in oil and gas companies around the world.

"It's own board of directors is entangled in the fossil fuel industry," said McGrath. "Four of them are sitting as directors for fossil fuel companies."

McGrath noted CPPIB has no Indigenous rights policy and have not made a public statement on how they will incorporate one into their investment process. There is a requirement to gain consent from Indigenous communities regarding the companies that affect them, he said.

> "This can't be a generational theft about the future"
> — ADAM SCOTT, DIRECTOR OF SHIFT

It is pointed out that if CPPIB eliminated oil and gas investments and went with greener alternatives, their investments would be higher than they are today.

What can you do as a Canadian citizen?

McGrath said a letter can be sent to your pension fund, follow pension plan activism on social media or see Shift's release of their climate action report card in the future. By going to their website, shiftaction.ca, you can directly send a letter to pension plan managers and show your support for not only your pension's health, but the health of the planet.

Shift also says that you can work with them individually, ask pension managers for meetings, and organize unions. Their goal is for all pension plans in Canada to align with the desire to reach zero emissions and invest in a healthy future.

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In Other Words

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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"Our performance may be poor this year, but it aligns perfectly with our environmental vision."

Baby's first Snowball

THIS WEEKEND marked my first ever Dorset Snowball.

I must say, I am thoroughly impressed.

Mother Nature luckily cooperated for my first ever Snowball and provided said snow to make said balls.

I thought I was prepared for the cold but boy, was I wrong. Within minutes of getting out of the car, my feet felt like numb bricks.

Steve Morrin, outdoors expert, says it was a nice day for February, but my digits shudder at the thought of it being even colder.

The first thing I noticed at the Snowball? Every single snowbank had a child climbing to the peak. The adults were far away huddled together for warmth, with the occasional thumbs up telling the kid to keep climbing. Those kids must have been in heaven.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

Pure and unadulterated childhood whimsy.

I was exceptionally jealous.

Like a fly, my nose drew me closer to the Dorset Community Centre. The smell of boiling maple syrup and sizzling peameal bacon nearly tricked me into having a second breakfast.

I opened my wallet to purchase some maple taffy from the Emes Family's Maple Syrup stall but was shocked and delighted to learn that the samples of maple taffy were free.

I didn't even feel bad about the children I trampled trying to buy some.

"If you're not in Dorset, you're not anywhere!" shouted the Town Crier, drawing a crowd.

I have been thinking deeply about what this means.

Surely, there are more places than Dorset. I mean, Minden and Haliburton are pretty close too?

My expectations of the Dorset Snowball were not particularly high. To provide some context, the only other small town festival I could compare to is the Mudcat Festival in Dunnville, Ontario. Both of these celebrations have entirely different vibes. The Mudcat Festival has a rather large beer garden.

However, I don't think the Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival needs anything like that. It has entertainment, great food, activities for the kids, and welcomes everyone from throughout the neighbouring communities to celebrate the winter.

The Dorset Snowball was an intimate, small town event that made me feel welcomed within the community. It completely surpassed any expectation I had.

That is what the Town Crier meant.

No matter where you come from, when you come to the Dorset Snowball, you become a member of a secret club. A secret club that knows how much fun it is to climb to the peaks of every snowbank like Everest, the sweetness of maple taffy, and how much fun it is to venture out into the cold and celebrate what family fun there is to have in snow-covered Dorset.

My only regret? I didn't try those peameal bacon sandwiches that the Dorset Lions Club were serving.

Maybe next year.

Squirrels behaving badly

NOT THAT long ago, I was looking out the backyard window in hopes of enjoying the playful antics of our local wildlife.

"Oh look," I said to Jenn. "There's a train of five eastern gray squirrels chasing each other at breakneck speed through the treetops."

But, by the time Jenn showed up, I had to yell, "Avert your eyes!"

"Oh my God," she yelped.

"Get a room!" I screamed at the squirrels, as I shook my fist.

You guessed it, our local squirrels were at it again.

This is a family-oriented column so I will not elaborate on what "it" means. Let's just say, if the kids see that kind of behaviour, it will cause them to ask questions that evoke uncomfortable answers like, "Ask your mother (or father.)"

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

I'm not sure why squirrels decide to take this show on the road, but they do. All I can think of is that they're probably trying to spice up the relationship. And they are uninhibited about it too.

Who knows? Maybe the fact that their mating season is fraught with danger – from hawks, owls, falls, and paternity suits – also adds to the experience.

I mean, it begins with a chase which entails multiple male suitors trying to catch the female. The pursuit causes them to leap from tree to tree and climb up and down trunks until one lucky fellow catches up to the exhausted female. Then, without even so much as a formal introduction, the happy couple is making squirrel porn on the branch of a maple in front of God and everybody – including the other suitors who are now filled with self-loathing.

The best advice I can give to an outdoors enthusiast is to ignore it all.

If you don't, you'll soon be answering embarrassing questions, some of which are regarding the search history on your laptop – specifically, the several entries titled, "Eastern gray squirrels mating." Worse still, your spouse will ask you to explain why you now keep a pair of binoculars within easy reach by the window. (I like watching the nuthatches and chickadees, I swear.) They might also question why you suddenly want to cancel your Netflix subscription.

The event also creates so many unanswered questions. For instance, do the slower male squirrels tie the shoelaces together of that one male squirrel who is always faster than the others? Or, is it worth risking falls from near-fatal heights, just to breed? (Given the fact that they only have this opportunity twice a year, I think we all know what the answer is.)

The point is, no good can come from spending too much time watching squirrels breed. Suffice it to say, this is part of the natural life cycle of those kinky little tree rats and it happens only twice a year – and we should leave it at that. (The next time is in late summer.)

But it also makes you realize how far we have come as a species. For there was a time when our ancestors lived in trees too. I'm guessing this is the reason why we are ground dwellers now. I mean all those crazy, ape-like ancestors who risked it all probably would not have survived too many mating seasons.

Especially with their shoelaces tied together and all.

InOtherWords

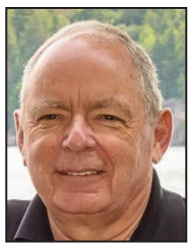
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Whither goes the Frost Centre?

IT WAS roughly one year ago that I wrote about the dark, worried feelings I had about the Frost Centre on St. Nora Lake just south of Dorset. Today, those feelings are darker and more worried.

The historic site, bought by the troubled Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) from the province three years ago, was put up for sale again last week. The union paid $3.2 million for the property and is asking $3.49 million.

When it bought the property, the union said it planned to reinvigorate the 40-acre site and its 21 buildings "to serve our members and the broader community at large."



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

The Frost Centre was opened in 1921 as a training centre for Ontario's forest rangers. In the 1970s the government used it as a staff training centre and a place to be used by school groups, wildlife organizations and eco-tourism groups.

The government closed the centre in 2004 but leased it to a private group as a summer camp and environment programming site. That lasted three years and the land and buildings have sat unused since.

The main concern now is what a new buyer will do with the place. OPSEU commissioned a planning study last year which raises the possibility of selling off parts of the property for cottage lots, which would increase traffic in and around the lake.

I have a conflict of interest here. I live on St. Nora Lake and will be affected by whatever is done with the Frost Centre. However, that's life and something to deal with personally. My main worry is how a sale will affect the heritage and history of the Frost Centre property.

OPSEU made some flowery statements about the property when it first took possession of it. It seemed committed to revitalizing the place and to protecting its heritage and history.

"We know the centre's impressive history . . . ," Eddy Almeida vice-president and treasurer at the time. He said that preserving the integrity of the site is of "utmost importance" to the union.

"The property is an absolute gem," said then union president Warren (Smokey) Thomas.

How committed the union is to this gem of heritage and history today remains to be seen. There is some concern that the union will simply dump the site to any buyer without any thought to what they plan to do with it. This is just loose talk and nothing is certain until a sale is made.

There are various restrictions on what can be done with the property. The old towerman's cabin on the site is designated a heritage site. Also, a Heritage Conservation Easement Agreement (HCEA) outlines what can and cannot be done to the various other buildings.

A 2020 provincial policy statement says the "ecological function and biodiversity of natural heritage systems, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved."

These restrictions complicate making major changes to the property but money and good lawyers can get pretty much anything done.

If I had several million bucks, I'd buy the property and turn it into a lakeside park celebrating the history of the Frost Centre and Haliburton County. However, I don't have several million bucks.

The provincial government does. It should buy the place back and develop a plan for how to best use it.

We live in a time of growing concern about Nature collapsing under the weight of overdevelopment. We are seeing climate change beginning to alter our world.

What better way to use this heritage property than as an educational site that helps us to understand the natural world and how to live in it without destroying it?

The province's sale of the Frost Centre in 2021 was an unintelligent decision that ignored the importance of local history and heritage and put local people out of work.

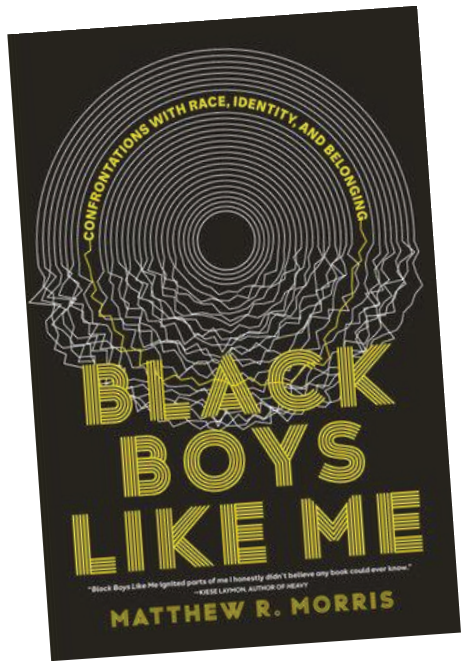
OPSEU's decision to sell gives the province an opportunity to reverse a bad decision.

Three million dollars is nothing to big government, but it will buy another chance to stop more for-profit development and help to create more thinking about how we should be living in our disappearing natural world.

Minden Memories

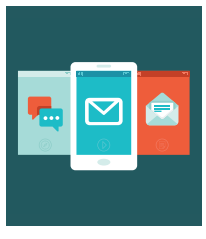
A "Get Well Soon" post card from 1919/ Photo submitted by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week



In a series of insightful essays, Matthew R. Morris, a young Black man with an immigrant father and a white mother, reflects on his experiences as an elementary school teacher in Toronto. Coming from Scarborough and spending transformative years in the U.S., Morris grapples with questions of identity and success within a historically exclusionary school system. He delves into the tension between his consumption of Black culture as a child, his teenage performances of the ideas and values of the culture that often betrayed his identity, and the ways society and the people guiding him – his parents, coaches, and teachers – received those performances. What emerges is a painful journey toward transcending performance altogether, toward true knowledge of the self.

Black Boys Like Me by Matthew R. Morris is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to thomas@haliburtonpress.com

The right to repair

"THEY DON'T make them like they used to."

"It costs more to repair than to buy a whole new one."

"I can get it fixed, but I have to drive to [insert urban centre 2 hours away] to get that done."

If you own any piece of technology, whether it is a smartphone, computer, appliance, vehicle, or just about anything that switches on and does a thing, you have probably uttered at least one of the above phrases.

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING
Humans and Technology

The right to repair is a concept that includes several consumer rights including:

That consumers have the right to repair or have someone repair the products that they have purchased.

That consumers be able to choose a repairer based on affordability, quality, and convenience.

That the tools, information, and parts be available so that repairs can be made.

The right to repair movement developed in response to corporations creating roadblocks to consumers being able to prolong the life of the products they purchased. But why would corporations want to do this? Well, because they want to sell more products.

In the early 20th century, the automobile industry ran into a problem: lots of people owned cars and, those cars being still in good condition, didn't need new ones. In the mid-1920s, General Motors began to introduce yearly changes to car models – a little more speed, the sexiest new colour, a flashy bit of trim – to entice consumers to buy a new vehicle even if they didn't necessarily need to. This practice is credited as the birth of "planned obsolescence", artificially shortening the usable lifespan of a product to force consumers to buy new.

Since then, there has been an ongoing battle for the right to repair as industry has adopted practices to stymie that right. Examples include:

Smartphone manufacturers using glue to secure batteries into devices, inhibiting simple battery replacements.

Pushing consumers to costly authorized repair networks, a practice that originated with the Ford Motor Company, to disadvantage independent repair shops.

Manufacturers using non-standard parts to prevent consumers from purchasing more affordable and widely available third-party options.

Pairing parts and software in such a way that repairs cannot be carried out by independent repairers (a practice adopted with gusto by John Deere, and ultimately adopted by many other manufacturers).

In 2012, Canada enshrined digital lock rules in the Copyright Act. The original intent of this was to protect creators' rights to works such as music, video games, and other digital media from piracy. A major criticism of these rules at the time was that this addition to the Copyright Act made it illegal to break a digital lock even if the resulting act was otherwise legal and not an infringement on a creator's copyright. A consequence to these anti-circumvention laws was exactly what critics predicted: digital locks began to be used outside of their intended purpose. Manufacturers began to use digital locks to restrict repairs and the use of third-party parts. John Deere, Apple, and Epson are just a few companies that have engaged in these practices.

Two pieces of legislation making their way through Canada's parliamentary system will hopefully correct this mistake. Bill C-244 and Bill C-294 are both amendments to the Copyright Act to allow for those digital locks to be bypassed for the purpose of repair or interoperability provided actual copyright isn't being violated. Both bills received unanimous support in the House of Commons and are now before the Senate for review. These pieces of legislation are an important first step to secure the right to repair for Canadians.

For people living in rural areas and low-income earners, fostering the right to repair in Canada could mean not having to drive long distances, being able to choose a lower cost option, or being able to repair something yourself. The right to repair also means that fewer products go to landfill prematurely, lessening our impact on the environment. Encouraging independent repairers also creates small business opportunities and increases competition.

The right to repair is a worldwide movement, and different countries are taking varying approaches to how they support that right. As an example, the European Union has focused on creating design requirements for companies to follow including working to ban the practice of gluing batteries into smartphones and requiring the use of standard cable connections (such as USB-C) across devices. Because the companies that manufacture the technology we use are also global, all of these approaches are needed to ensure that the right to repair is upheld.

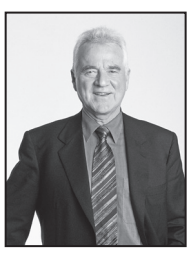
There's an economic storm brewing

NO ONE likes being the bearer of bad news, but I truly believe, with every bone in my body, that we're headed for some severe times in the years ahead.

How severe?

Depression-era levels of unemployment, for one. The large spike in joblessness will be brought about by many factors all taking place at once, including the digital and AI revolution, which will wipe out a large number of white-collar jobs, and the disruption to global trade brought about by increased regional strife and armed conflict.

I also foresee food shortages coming to our shores, and food will continue to become more and more costly.



FRANK STRONACH
Principles

A new poll published last week by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA) revealed that more than 44 per cent of residents in Ontario said the high cost of living is taking a big bite out of their cashflow, leaving them with less dollars for retirement savings. In other words, while it's getting harder and harder to put food on the table, it's also getting much more difficult to sock away savings for our retirement years.

I lived through the Great Depression as a young boy. People got by. They made do with what they had. In our house, that meant eating cornmeal three times a day. I don't think the downturn we're going to experience will be as bad or long, but I do think it will be more severe than any recession we've had in nearly a century.

For many small business owners in Canada right now, we're already in a period of deep economic turmoil. A report published last week by the federal Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy showed that business bankruptcies were up 75 per cent over the previous year.

On top of that, according to Statistics Canada there were over 200,000 business closures between June and October 2023, which means the owners simply closed up shop rather than file for bankruptcy. That's a sad commentary on the business environment we've created in this country.

As with everything in life, major disruptive events like economic downturns are sometimes beyond our control. But it nevertheless makes you wonder: to what extent have we been the authors of our own economic misfortune?

Regardless, there are still many steps we can take right now to make our economy stronger and more resistant to the economic storm that is brewing.

One of the surest ways we can bolster our economy is through the implementation of an economic charter of rights that will get our government finances and economy back on a solid footing. I believe it would completely regenerate Canada by raising incomes and living standards and reining in the damage currently being done by government debt and spending that has gone completely off the rails.

Small business owners, who are being battered right now from all directions, would especially benefit from the economic charter since it would eliminate business tax on these companies and dramatically reduce the number of regulations currently strangling small business.

But small businesses and besieged Canadians can't sit back and hope for better days. They need to fight for change. The national coalition I've formed to push for an economic charter of rights is one of the best ways we can restore sound economic principles and place our country in a much better position to weather the economic downturn that is inevitably coming.

To learn more about the economic charter and how it could generate economic growth and prosperity, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, visit: www.economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

fstronachlpc@gmail.com.

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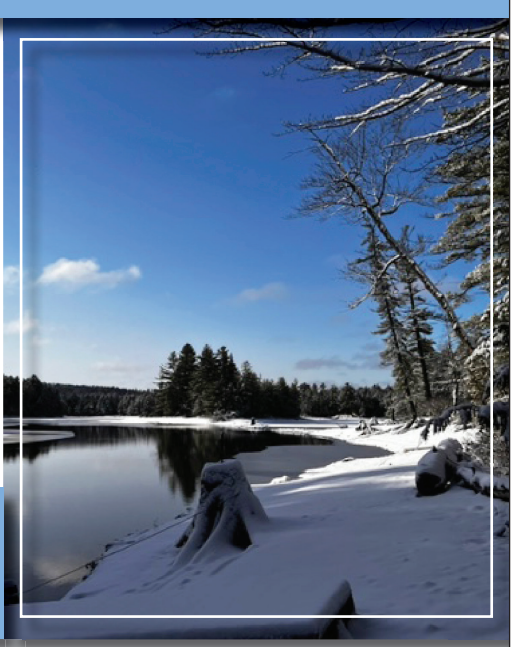

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY · The Times MINDEN ONTARIO · County Life

Canoe FM open house invites community to record

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

"It's about giving people the opportunity who thought, 'well, I'd really like to get recording' and they just don't know where to go," says Laurie Sweig, volunteer for Canoe FM.

The Canoe FM Radio Station had an Open House this weekend to highlight their new recording space.

For those interested in using the radio station's recording space, there will be a pre-recording meeting to establish expectations for your project and set up the proper equipment. Services include recording, editing, mixing, and mastering. Afterwards, an .mp3, .wav, or Logic will be provided. There is a minimum donation required of $20 per hour.

Only original music recorded at the station will be available to play on the radio, as well as requested by the public.

All of the volunteers at Canoe FM are extremely passionate about music and have the training for their equipment to meet people's needs, says Roxanne Casey, Station Manager.

While they doubt Taylor Swift would make the trek to Haliburton, they are very open to her using the recording studio, says Casey and Sweig.

"Music is magic and it's great medicine. So the more that you're around it, I believe, the healthier you are," says Sweig, "it's hitting parts of your brain that otherwise don't get stimulated."

Canoe FM hosted a successful Open House event this weekend showcasing their recording studio's capabilities. The room was packed with volunteers and visitors abound. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Dean the Marten. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

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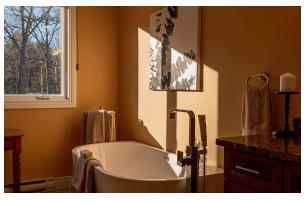

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ANDREA WILSON
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Local syrup producers take advantage of warm winter

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Warmer temperatures and a lack of snow has made for plenty of changes in Haliburton County this winter.

One Haliburton County couple knows this well.

Rick and Wendy Wood have been boiling maple sap that flows from the trees on their property this February, one of the earliest sap seasons they've ever seen.

"I retired 10 years ago. First it started off as a hobby, 80 trees on buckets, the second year it went to 225 trees on buckets, then it just kept going up from there," said Rick Wood as he walked through the forest. "Three years ago, we were almost at 1000, then I realized that I was getting older. Now we are at about 850."

"There is hardly no snow in the bush compared to most years. Usually when you are tapping the trees, you are in waist deep snow," he said.

In years past, Rick and Wendy would not start tapping the trees on their property in Minden until late February and would not begin boiling for syrup until March.

"Mar. 3 was our earliest boil to date," said Rick.

"He starts a little bit earlier as soon as it starts warming up because he cleans all the lines, and he wants warmer weather to pump water through the lines," explained Wendy. "Normally when we do get that warmer trend in February, he's just getting the lines running."

"It usually took me 10 days to get tapped whereas this year I did it in about five to six just because the snow wasn't as deep," he said.

The couple belong to the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association.

"All the people there were talking like who's tapping, who's not," Wendy said."You get a pretty good idea. Like southern Ontario, they're all taps. Some of them, it was the end of January, or even tapping them earlier this year."

"It's getting earlier and earlier every year," said Rick.

The Woods noted there has definitely been a change, but said they have not been doing it as long as other maple veterans, who have 20+ years of experience.

Rick and Wendy Wood's sugar shack sits on their Peterson Road property. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

For 40 years, Wendy Wood has been an artist. Her artwork primarily consists of landscape paintings and fibre art. Wendy was the one who suggested that Rick begin tapping the maple trees on their property.

"When we started we had put the generic label on it," said Wendy. "Then, the second year, my son said to me, why don't you just do your own label?

"It's a unique label too," said Rick. "I think actually, that helps with sales just because it is something slightly different and it's good syrup."

The Woods sell their maple syrup under the label The Colour of Wood, and it can be found in stores such as Abbey Gardens, Organic Times, and the Rail's End Art Gallery.

"I honestly think it is going to be really short and quick and that we are going to have an early spring, but who knows," Rick said.

While it is possible to turn the syrup into butter and hard candies, the machines required to make the products are not worth it to their small operation, Rick said.

The Woods are originally from Brantford, near Ancaster. When they first began tapping their trees in 2014, Rick was mentored by Ron Reid on Kushog Lake Road.

"If anyone's thinking about doing it as a larger thing other than for personal, definitely be a member [of OMSPA] 'cause there's a lot of free information and you have to follow certain codes, especially with the labelling and everything."

The two joined OMSPA before beginning their syrup production to learn the skills involved with harvesting maple syrup, gain access to experienced producers, and hit the ground running with harvesting. Everything from forest management to pests, the OMSPA provides for syrup producers.

Rick and Wendy'ss favourite uses of maple syrup is as a sweetener in things like smoothies and in BBQ sauce.

Wendy recommends the Maple Royale cocktail:

- ½ shot whiskey of choice
- ½ shot of The Colour of Wood maple syrup

"Since we started making maple syrup, we stopped buying sugar," said Wendy. They use maple syrup for both cooking and baking, replacing sugar almost entirely as a delicious and locally produced sweetening agent.

"We need more snow in the bush so that it will keep the ground cold longer. It all depends on Mother Nature, it has to get cold and warm and it can't get above 13 degrees for a couple days in a row. It's over when the buds grow on the trees. That's when the syrup goes buddy. It has an off flavour, that's when it is finished."

"Sap is like a thermometer. All the sap is at the bottom of the base when it is cold," said Rick. "And when it goes up, it goes up the tree to wake up the tree, then when it gets cold at night it all goes back down again. When you get the sap is when it is going up the tree, when it is getting warm."

It cycles every day, just like a heart.

The 370 taps on the south part of their property produce the same amount of sap as the 580 taps on the northern part of their property. This is because the south side warms up quicker and can run longer, explained Rick Wood.

Rick Wood shows off a full pot of nearly completed maple syrup.

Their property is a managed forest and has been since before the couple purchased the property.

"That's one of the reasons why we bought this property," said Wendy, "was because the forest was in such nice shape."

All of the taps and lines that the Woods use for their syrup production run on gravity fed lines.

"Sometimes if you tap early, you can dry up your taps, but I haven't seen that. The big guys tap 10,000 to 20,000 trees," said Rick. "They have to run early due to using a vacuum system."

"Every year, we have on average 20 boils. This year we have had two, which is 10 per cent of our crop."

In recent years, the Woods have invested in a reverse osmosis (RO) machine to assist in syrup products. While the syrup straight from the tree has a sugar content of two per cent, the RO machine can make the sap have a sugar content of seven or eight per cent. For each doubling percentage of sugar content, it reduces half the water, said Rick.

Boiling the sap in their sugar shack is a labour of love. Rick must refill the boiler's firewood supply every 15 minutes, keeping him awake throughout the night.

Colour of Wood's Open House is open to the public for the Maple Weekend celebrations on April 6 and 7 located at 1255 Peterson Rd.

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HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Board Member Recruitment for 2024/2025

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care at the Haliburton site), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member of our Board of Directors or as a Community Representative on one of the Board's Standing Committees.

At a minimum, board members should expect to devote approximately 10 hours of time per month to HHHS business, including attendance at monthly board and committee meetings both in-person and virtually.

Annual board recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds.**

How to be Considered

Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by **March 1, 2024**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at: www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:

Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527

Land Trust Discovery Days will teach scat, bats, and more

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is excited to offer Land Trust Discovery Days 2024, a series of educational events, workshops, and guided walks to be held throughout 2024. Some themes and topics to look forward to this year are Dragonflies, Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk, Bats in the Night, Tree Health and Identification, and Spring Wildflowers.

The first event of the season is designed to engage our young learners: Animal Tracks and Scat. This event will take place on Saturday, Mar. 23, 10 a.m. to noon, at Abbey Gardens – The Gathering Place. Children from ages five to 12 will enjoy hands-on activities and a walk outdoors led by Outdoor Educator Rick Whitteker. An adult must accompany the registered child. This event is offered by donation and is sponsored by HHLT's generous donors. Pre-registration is required.

Registration for this event and for all other Land Trust Discovery Days events should be done online at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca under the Events tab.

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust has a purpose to protect the lands and waters of Haliburton County for future generations. One of the ways we do this is to educate people of all ages to understand and appreciate the species that live here. We hope that our Land Trust Discovery Days will offer a fun and interesting way for people to engage with nature and learn about the natural environment we share.

Submitted by Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

Slip, slide, score!

The 3rd Annual Broomball Tournament held by Els and Matt at their Minden home was a huge success this past weekend. Over 44 people were in attendance. 6 teams faced off in the Double Elimination Bracket. Matches were close, competition was fierce and it was all left out on the Broomball Court. The Rockies took home the coveted Broomball Trophy. Captain, Blayne Saunders led Glenn Rammsdale, Gavin Hull, Gen Simone, the Gibbons brothers Nathan and Aaron to victory against the Nordiques. Thank you to all who came out to play, cheer and support an amazing event. See you next year. /Photo submitted

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Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays, at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cribbage and Euchre
When: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Please join us Tuesdays for cribbage and Euchre at St. George's Anglican Church. With funding from the Government of Ontario. Please contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for more information.

Super Cash Calendar Draws
When: Second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m. January until October.
Where: Haliburton Legion
Three tickets pulled per night. First ticket winner receives $100, second ticket $200, and third ticket $500. Winners will be posted every month on www.haliburtonlions.com. Public is welcome to attend the draws at the Lions meetings.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 & 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. 5 spins for $10. The first 4 rounds are for highest and lowest score with 2 winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Student Art Exhibition
When: Feb. 10 - Mar. 30
Where: Agnes Jamieson Gallery, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Archie Stouffer Elementary School and the Agnes Jamieson Gallery present to you a juried exhibition of artwork with the theme 'What does Minden mean to you?' Viewing is available Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is by donation. Contact culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or 705-286-3763 for full details and updates.

Charity Bake Sale
When: Feb 28, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Animal Hospital, 4 Booth Street
Dr. Jenn and her team at the Minden Animal Hospital will be hosting a charity bake sale on Pink Shirt Day (Kindness Day). Cash only. All proceeds are being donated to Turtle Guardians.

Lenten Lunch
When: Feb 28 at 12 noon
Where: St. Paul's Anglican Church, 19 Invergordon Ave. Minden
Join the Minden Bible Church (meeting at St Paul's Anglican Church hall) for a service at 12 noon followed by a soup lunch by donation.

World Day of Prayer Service
When: March 1 at 2 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. Minden
Join us for our World Day of Prayer service at Highland Hills United Church. Everyone is welcome.

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Serving syrup

St. Paul's Anglican Church slung steaming pancakes with syrups and all the breakfast sides you could desire for Shrove Tuesday on Feb. 13. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

Sudoku brought to you by

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	6							4
		1				5		2
	2		9				3	
			6	4		8	9	
						7		
5		2						3
		3						
6	1						8	
	8		3	7				

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14

Sokolski Real Estate Group donates over $40,000 to YWCA:

Funds raised from Trek to Volcanic Peak in Ecuador

Peterborough real estate agent Mark Sokolski and his team at The Sokolski Real Estate Group have made an incredible donation of $41,952 to YWCA Peterborough Haliburton. Mr. Sokolski raised funds for the YWCA by participating in the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation's Ecuador Challenge for Shelter.

In November, Mr. Sokolski joined more than 100 other Canadian Royal LePage staff members and travelled to Ecuador in South America, where they spent five days trekking toward Mount Cotopaxi, one of the highest active volcanoes in the world.

Mr. Sokolski spent significant time throughout 2023 doing increasingly challenging training activities to build up stamina for the trip. His fundraising efforts also started over a year ago, as he canvassed personal and professional contacts from our community and beyond to make donations toward his goal of $50,000. He exceeded that goal, raising $52,440, with 20 per cent going to the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation and 80 per cent going directly to our local YWCA.

In total, the group travelling to Ecuador raised $1,700,000, which is the most money ever raised by a single Shelter Foundation event.

"We are absolutely thrilled by how successful Mark's efforts have been, both in raising money for such a critical need in our community but also in preparing for and enduring one of the most physically gruelling treks possible," says Tina Thornton, Director of Philanthropy, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton. "We couldn't be more grateful to The Sokolski Real Estate Group and to all of the community members who donated to Mark's campaign for helping to make a difference in the lives of those experiencing gender-based violence."

The Sokolski Real Estate Group's generous donation will support YWCA Peterborough Haliburton's lifesaving programs and safe spaces, including Crossroads Shelter in Peterborough, the START program, Transitional Housing and Outreach program, the Family Court Support program, the Women's Well-Being counselling and peer support program, and basic necessities and food for women and children staying in safe spaces.

Submitted by YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

Support grows for church's Trillium grant effort

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

St. George's Anglican Church is looking to open its doors to more people in Haliburton County.

To that end, Jenny Rieger asked Haliburton County council to write a letter supporting its application for an Ontario Trillium Capital Grant to complete the work necessary to make the church's lower level fully accessible.

Council agreed during its Feb. 14 regular meeting to support the effort.

The money will go toward adjusting a ramp, widening some doorways, and to construct a wheelchair accessible washroom. That work will complement the wheelchair lift installed at the church in 2019.

The lift allowed people with mobility issues to access an all-purpose room in the church's lower level.

"There is an inadequate ramp and bad-angled corners and there are no wheelchair accessible washrooms in that lower level to allow people to get into what is really the most lovely room in the church," Rieger said.

She referred to the Hunt Room which overlooks Head Lake from Mountain Street.

"It's lovely and bright," she said. "Big windows. It's just a beautiful room for people to use."

The church has already tapped ACM Designs Inc. to spearhead the plan layout to correct the structure's accessibility issues. But the project is ultimately contingent upon getting the grant.

"We need to have the full funding from Trillium," she said. "We are not asking the county or the municipality to contribute in any way other than through letters of support.

Rieger said the Township of Dysart has already forwarded a letter supporting the cause.

"We'll get that letter ready for you as soon as possible," said Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands.

> "We need to have the full funding from Trillium."
>
> — JENNY RIEGER

Hawks are OFSAA bound

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Nordic ski team shone at the COSSA championship on Wednesday, Feb. 14, with each athlete qualifying for OFSAA to be held at Lakefield College school. HHSS was team champions in the junior girls, junior boys, and senior girls categories. Violet Humpries won individual gold, and all athletes finished in the top ten. /Photo submitted

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Win secured

The Haliburton County Huskies left fans in awe after 6-0 win against the Mississauga Chargers at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The game was the first shutout for goalie Logan Kennedy. / TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

County of Haliburton
2024 Budget Deliberations

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that Haliburton County Council will be holding further discussions on the 2024 budget at a special meeting of Council on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the County Council Chambers at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, ON. The agenda for the above noted meeting date can be viewed online at http://haliburton.civicweb.net

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3	6	8	1	2	5	9	7	4
9	7	1	8	3	4	5	6	2
4	2	5	9	6	7	1	3	8
1	3	7	6	4	2	8	9	5
8	4	6	5	9	3	7	2	1
5	9	2	7	1	8	6	4	3
7	5	3	4	8	6	2	1	9
6	1	4	2	5	9	3	8	7
2	8	9	3	7	1	4	5	6

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540 COMING EVENTS

Lenten Lunches Wednesdays
Feb. 21 - St. Paul's Anglican Church,
Feb. 28 - Minden Bible Church at St. Paul's Anglican,
March 6 - St. Paul's Anglican,
March 13 - Our Lady of the Fatima Catholic Church,
March 20 - Highland Hills United Church. **Services at noon,** followed by Soup Lunch, by donation.

Part-time Reporter/Photographer

The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times are seeking a Reporter/Photographer to join our award-winning newspapers in the heart of Ontario's cottage country.

Responsibilities will include:
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The successful candidate must have access to their own transportation.

Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Jennifer McEathron
by **Friday, March 1, 2024.**
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

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Haliburton ON. K0M 1S0
By February 23rd, 2024

520 THANK YOU

I wish to thank the many well-wishers upon my retirement from the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Whether in person or in messages, I am honoured by your kindness. A special thanks to the municipality of Dysart staff for the surprise farewell party and gifts. Thanks, as well, to Canoe Radio the Haliburton County Echo, and the Highlander for their interviews. Most of all, a sincere thanks to the people of Haliburton. You are a wonderful community. My interest in local history remains. Thank you to everybody. Stephen Hill

Minden Times

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Nancy Farrell
Passed away at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Thursday, February 15, 2024 with her family at her side, at the age of 78.

Beloved wife of the late Wayne Farrell. Dear mother of Tracy (Jeff) Howe and Doug Farrell. Loving grandma of Brittany (Ian), Jordon (Bailey), Calvin, Riley, Denton and great grandma to Cash and Rhys. Dear sister of Carole Robinson and predeceased by her parents Helen and Alvin. Fondly remembered by her niece Sherri.

A Private Family Interment will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society and the Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of
Douglas Hugh Cameron
Passed away peacefully at Fenelon Court, Fenelon Falls on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the age of 89.

Beloved husband of the late Noreen (nee Bewell). Dear father of Glen, Karen and her husband Riley. Loving grandfather of Shane (Patricia), Alex and great grandchildren. Dear brother of Paul and his wife Barbara. Dear friend of Pat Marshall. Fondly remembered by nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday February 24th, 2024 from 11:00am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Doug's Life at 1:00pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home.

Memorial Donations to the Woodland Wildlife Sanctuary would be appreciated by the family.

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Spring Beach Party
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It was fiesta time at the CHACE drop-in centre last Wednesday as the facility hosted a Mexican Day party for children and caregivers. Participants wore costumes, danced to Latin music and enjoyed a buttet that included nachos.

Minden may soon have its own police officer

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

The village of Minden may soon be home to a community-based police officer.

Last Thursday, OPP Staff Sergeant Bill Elliott met with members of Minden council and outlined a proposal to assign a police officer to provide services in the village.

The move would be an extension of the community policing program which already exists in Haliburton village, where OPP constable Ron Buchanan serves as the community-based officer.

The Minden officer would operate from an office in the village and would work with a police services committee, made up of local residents, to address crime related issues.

Elliott described the community-based policing philosophy as an "old style/new style" approach. The officer would operate much like the traditional beat cop but would take direction from the public via the police committee.

Representation on the committee would be drawn from across the community and could include someone from council, senior citizens, local business owners and young people, said Elliott.

The system began in Haliburton village almost a year ago as a pilot project. "I can tell you, as far as we're concerned, it's been a great success," said Elliott.

Deputy-Reeve Bern Berry said there has been interest in community policy in Minden, particularly among members of the business community. "When it was first established, the BIA said 'Haliburton has it, we would like to see it in Minden'. We were told it was a pilot project but could be explored later," he said.

"This is later," said Elliott.

One of the first steps in the process is to call a public meeting to explain community policing and to establish the police services committee. Berry suggested the BIA be contacted because of their interest in the issue.

It was agreed that Elliott and Buchanan will attend tonight's BIA meeting to present the proposal to the members.

Elliott said one of the requirements for community policing is that an office be provided, by Minden, for the officer to operate from. Although the OPP detachment is located in Minden on the highway, it would not be a good location for the community officer, he said.

"It would not be an ideal locale for a walk-in office," said Elliott. "People from the Main Street are not going to walk to the detachment."

The OPP has adopted community policing across the province as a way to increase public involvement in law enforcement. By having one officer responsible for the same community on a regular basis, the goal is to improve communications between the police and residents.

In some areas, this approach has resulted in a 70 per cent decrease in the crime rate.

Elliott said the officer would work out his schedule so he's on duty during the times when he is most required.

If all goes well, the officer could be in place by summer. "It's not something you do overnight," said Elliott. "It takes two or three months to set it up."

Outdoor smoking approved

by Susan Grober

The doors have been opened to allow smoking on school property outside of Haliburton County Board of Education buildings.

Last Tuesday, a slim majority of the school board voted to rescind the fourth part of its policy which prohibits smoking on board property.

Smoking will still be banned inside board buildings.

The vote was in response to a request made by elementary school teachers who wanted the right to smoke outside their schools. Some have been lighting up inside their cars, and still weren't sure if this was against board policy.

In December, the board changed policy to allow smoking in designated areas for high school students, because their safety was in danger as many were forced to walk in the path of school buses to smoke off of school property.

Trustees discussed a request by elementary school teachers to smoke on school property at the board's January meeting, but held off a decision until the high school teachers could have a say in the matter.

(more on page 11)

Business group asked to help

Representatives from the Minden OPP will meet with the Business Improvement Area (BIA) tonight to discuss the proposal for a community based officer in Minden village.

Last Thursday, Staff Sergeant Bill Elliott and Constable Ron Buchanan met with Minden council to discuss the proposal and it was suggested the officers should present the idea to the BIA.

Members of the business community have shown interest in having an officer based in the village since last year when a community policing pilot project was initiated in Haliburton village.

Councillor Lewis Stevens, who is the municipality's representative to the BIA, said the members are keen on the idea and have "looked at Haliburton with envy" since Buchanan was assigned to the village.

He said the BIA might be able to help find a location for a police office in the downtown core.

The BIA is meeting tonight (Monday) in the council chambers at 7:30 p.m. and Lewis is encouraging all members to attend.

Canadian Forum

This week Minden resident Mary Anne Wilson talks about some of the problems that Canadian society is facing today. She says Canadians are not being heard on major issues.

See page 2

Speak Out

This Wednesday a citizen's forum on Canada's future is being held in the high school library. The results of the discussion will be forwarded to the

See page 3

Out of India

Local teenager Catya Hynard recently returned from a three-week visit of northern India where she was captivated by the sights and mysticism

See page 6

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